



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Attention: Environment Editor

For Immediate Release

August 10, 2001

T-13-01/01-031

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COMPUTER, TV RECYCLING MADE EASIER

SACRAMENTO - The **California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)** and **California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)**, both members of the California Environmental Protection Agency, have devised a new approach for managing hazardous cathode ray tubes (CRT), commonly found in computer monitors, televisions, some camcorders and other electronic devices. Under emergency regulations adopted by the DTSC, CRTs are now classified as Universal Wastes, opening the door to improved collection and recycling activities.

ACalifornia continues to lead the computer revolution. Today, partnering with the electronic industry, we are leading again by developing solutions to the growing computer and electronics waste problem,@ announced Ed Lowry, DTSC Director. AThese regulations are setting a national standard for the safe and efficient collection, reuse and recycling of electronic equipment.@

AStreamlining e-waste regulations and building markets for used electronics are fundamental to developing viable alternatives to throwing out old computers and TV sets,@ said Waste Board member Michael Paparian, who is leading Cal/EPA-s e-waste initiative.

Designation of CRTs as universal waste is part of Cal/EPA-s strategy to develop the technologies and infrastructure necessary to recover and recycle materials from the electronics equipment that would otherwise become hazardous waste. This strategy includes DTSC-s and the Waste Board-s participation in the **National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative**, which is an effort to develop voluntary end-of-life management strategies, and encourage manufacturers, governmental agencies, and environmental groups to work together to reduce e-waste. Similar efforts are underway in California. Product stewardship means taking responsibility for the environmental impacts of a given product at every stage of a product-s life: design, manufacture, marketing and use.

Universal wastes are commonly used items such as batteries, mercury thermometers and fluorescent tubes that are generated in homes and business and contain hazardous materials. A typical 17-inch computer monitor contains approximately 2.2

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pounds of lead and a 27-inch television can contain up to 8 pounds of lead. As universal wastes, these wastes are not subject to traditional hazardous waste requirements, but are subject to management controls based on the risk they pose to the environment and public health.

The new regulations require generators to improve the handling and storage of waste CRTs in order to prevent the release of lead contained in the CRT units. The emergency regulations are available at: www.dtsc.ca.gov/docs/law_reg/docs/OEARA_reg_CRT_EmergencyText.pdf. The updated requirements are fully explained in DTSC's fact sheet *Managing Waste Cathode Ray Tubes*, [www.dtsc.ca.gov/docs/hwmp/docs/HWM FS CRT-EmergencyRegs.pdf](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/docs/hwmp/docs/HWM_FS_CRT-EmergencyRegs.pdf).

"We are confident that efforts to promote product stewardship will motivate industry and manufacturers to step forward and share in the responsibility for collecting and recycling products at the end of their useful lives," said Paparian. "When manufacturers share the cost of recycling their products, they have an incentive to design products that are less toxic, easier to recycle, and use recycled-content materials."

The Waste Board is supporting local e-waste collection activities through its annual household hazardous waste grant awards to local governments, and will be awarding \$3 million in grants next week. Previously, CIWMB has allocated \$110,000 for a study of e-waste generation and infrastructure in California, and for development of state agency guidelines for procurement and end-of-life management of electronic equipment.

An Electronic Product Management web site (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/), maintained by the Waste Board, offers current information on developing e-waste issues and includes a listing of recyclers and reuse locations (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Reuse/Links/Computer.htm).

DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting its reduction.

The six-member California Integrated Waste Management Board is responsible for protecting public health and safety and the environment through management of the estimated 66 million tons of solid waste generated in California each year. CIWMB works in partnership with local government, industry, and the public to reduce solid waste disposal and ensure environmentally safe landfills. California now diverts 42 percent of its solid waste away from disposal.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, Flex Your Power and visit our Web site at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>."